Message Text

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR YEUTTER AND GOODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, GATT

SUBJECT: GENEVA EC DELEGATE'S VIEWS OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN'S

- 1. TWO TELEXED REPORTS BY THE EC COMMISSION'S GENEVA PERMREP, LUYTEN, ON THE MARCH 24-27 AG GROUP MEETING GIVE SOME INSIGHT INTO HIS READING OF THE US-EC DISPUTE OVER HOW TO HANDLE AGRICULTURE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF PORTIONS OF LUYTEN'S REPORTS SHOULD BE HANDLED DISCREETLY AS WE OBTAINED THE REPORTS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.
- 2. LUYTEN TAKES THE VIEW THAT THE US POSITION THAT SUBGROUPS OF THE AG GROUP SHOULD "DEAL WITH AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS" AND NOT "NEGOTIATE" REPRESENTS A RETREAT FROM THE COMPROMISE WORKED OUT AT THE FEBRUARY TNC, AND IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE EC. HE ALSO REPORTS THAT THE US IS ISOLATED IN ITS OPPOSITION TO A SUBGROUP ON GRAINS.
- 3. LUYTEN REPORTS THAT, IN A CONVERSATION WITH A MEMBER OF THE US MTN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELEGATION, HE AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR CONTACTS BETWEEN THE

US AND THE COMMISSION DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 7, EITHER IN BRUSSELS OR GENEVA.

HE SAID HE PREFERED GENEVA AND SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET FROM APRIL 9 ONWARD ON 24 HOURS NOTICE.

- 4. LUYTEN REPORTED THAT IN HIS CONVERSATION HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE CREATION OF PRODUCE SUBGROUPS APPEARED INDISPENSABLE, FROM THE EC POINT OF VIEW, IF WORTHWHILE NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE SECTORS CONCERNED. HE SAID THE EC COULD NOT AGREE TO DELAY THE CREATION OF SUCH SUBGROUPS UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMER. THE LONDON NEGOTIATIONS WOULD FEEL THE EFFECTS, IF THERE WERE NO NEGOTIATIONS ON GRAINS AT GENEVA.
- 5. LUYTEN SAYS HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT GROUPS ON TARIFFS AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS (APPARENTLY SUBORDINATE TO THE AGRICULTURE GROUP) SHOULD BE CREATED TO WORK "IN CONJUNCTION WITH" (SEE SEC. 103 OF THE TRADE ACT) THE PRODUCT GROUPS. THE TAFIFF GROUP COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, EXAMINE THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH ALL OF THE NEGOTIATING PARTNERS PROTECT EXCLUSIVELY BY TARIFFS. MYERSON

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